

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Shunpei Yamazaki, et al. Art Unit : 2826
Serial No. : 10/727,651 Examiner : Ahmed N. Sefer
Filed : December 5, 2003
Title : THIN FILM TRANSISTORS AND SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF NOVEMBER 18, 2005

Claims 1-11, 19-30, 38-42, 80-83, 121 and 122 are pending, with claims 1, 2, 20 and 21 being independent.

The Examiner has objected to claim 38 for including the word “haloger” instead of “halogen”. However, applicant has reviewed the claim and could find no instance of “haloger”. Accordingly, applicant requests withdrawal of this objection.

Claims 1-11, 19-30, 38-42, 80-83, 121 and 122 have been rejected as being anticipated by Yamazaki (JP11-345767), which is said to be equivalent to U.S. Patent No. 6,087,679. The rejection indicates that the various orientation ratios and lattice plane angles recited in independent claims 1, 2, 20 and 21 would have been inherent in Yamazaki “because Yamazaki teaches ... that it is effective to use a silicon containing germanium at 1-10% ... for the channel formation region.” Applicant respectfully disagrees. The claimed subject matter relates to crystallizing an amorphous semiconductor film to obtain the recited orientation ratios and lattice plane angles. A semiconductor film containing germanium would not always include the recited features and, as such, the recited limitations are not inherent in Yamazaki. Indeed, as is well known, small changes in a semiconductor film formation process can have a large impact on the resulting semiconductor film, such that a process that merely uses similar starting materials may produce dramatically different results. In view of this, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection does not adequately establish that the recited ratios and plane angles would have been inherent and, accordingly, that the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-11, 19-30, 38-42, 80-83, 121 and 122 also have been rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,956,235 and claims 1-21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,787,807. Applicant requests that this rejection be held in abeyance until the claims are otherwise found to be allowable, at which time applicant will consider whether to file a terminal disclaimer or to provide arguments as to why the claims in their otherwise allowable form are patentably distinct from the claims of the '235 and '807 patents.

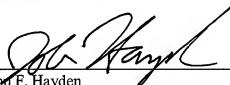
Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this paper. In the event that any fees are due, please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

2/21/06



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